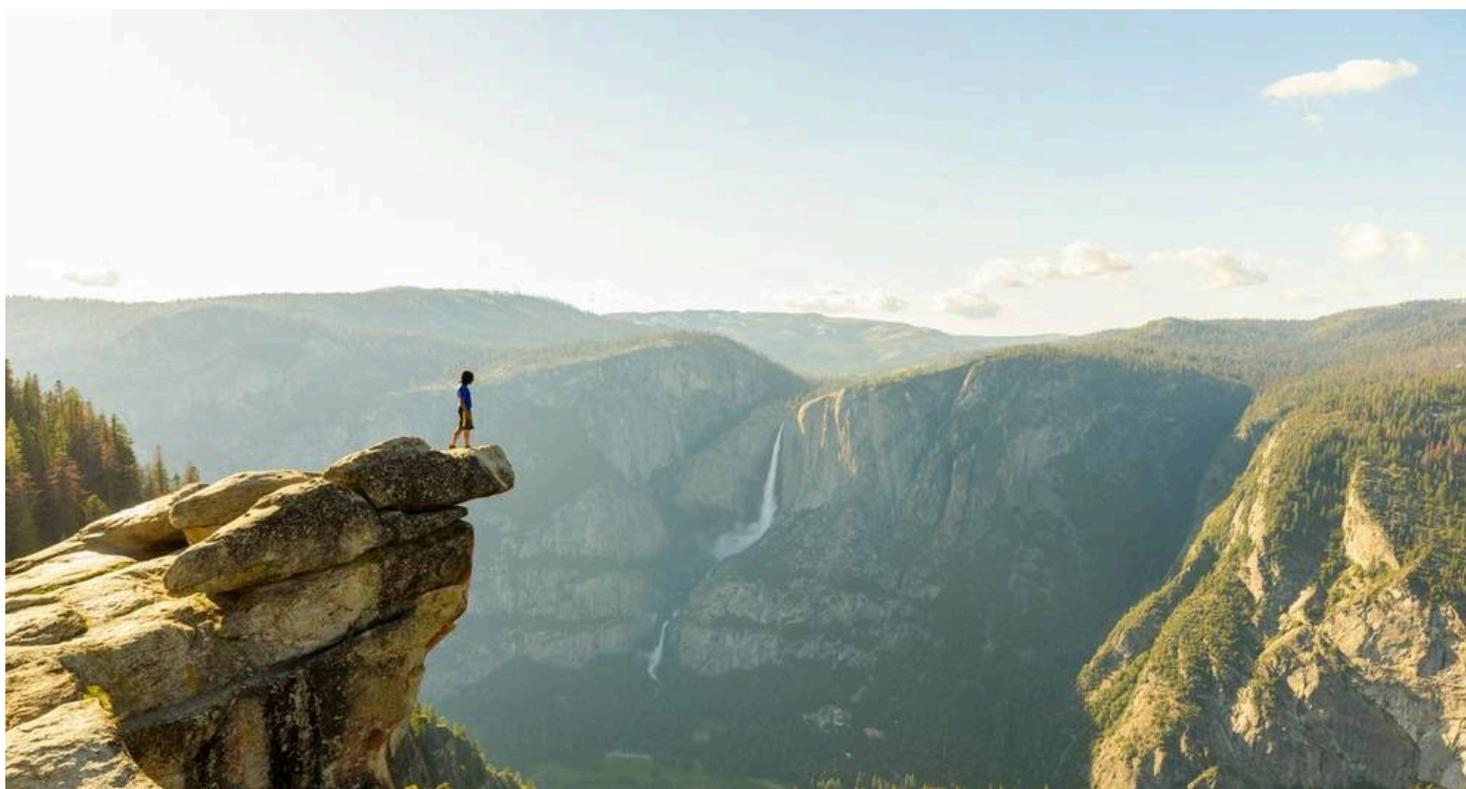


# Yosemite & The Grand Canyon Guided Walking Holiday

**Tour Style:** Worldwide Multi-Centre  
**Destination:** USA  
**Trip code:** SFWHW  
**Trip Walking Grade:** 2



## HOLIDAY OVERVIEW

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Start among the Victorian roof lines of San Francisco and the fog rolling over the Golden Gate Bridge, whetting your appetite for the adventures to come. After a visit to the notorious prison island of Alcatraz, it's time to head out of the city to enjoy the wilderness in Yosemite National Park. Here, waterfall-striped walls contrast the emerald-green Yosemite Valley and the haughty granite profile of Half Dome. Explore further with visits to Sequoia and Death Valley National Parks, before taking in the majesty of the seemingly endless Grand Canyon and travelling on Route 66 to the glittering lights of Las Vegas.

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

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- 11 nights' en-suite accommodation
- Full board from dinner on arrival to breakfast on departure
- A full holiday programme with experienced local guides and a HF Holidays Leader
- Sightseeing
- Entrance fees

- Travel by minibus or coach
- Tips

## HOLIDAYS HIGHLIGHTS

- Enjoy the sights of San Francisco including a visit to Alcatraz
- Walk in Yosemite National Park beneath its grand granite peaks
- Be dwarfed by giant trees in Sequoia National Park
- Explore Death Valley - hottest place on Earth
- Feel tiny hiking into the depths of the Grand Canyon
- Travel to Las Vegas on Route 66



## ITINERARY

### Day 1: Arrival Day

Fly to San Francisco and transfer to our hotel, where the rest of the day is at leisure.

### Day 2: San Francisco

We'll explore the city on foot today, including taking a cable car ride. This evening we'll take the boat across the bay to Alcatraz Island, home to the famous prison complex.

### Day 3: Yosemite National Park

Today starts with a morning walk over the Golden Gate Bridge, before we transfer to Yosemite and enjoy dinner at our hotel.

After dinner, we will take a wildlife and sunset photography walk in the Valley with a chance to see coyote, deer, and even the occasional bear. We will walk to the base of Yosemite Falls, and along the Merced River with incredible views of Half Dome and El Capitan and the waterfalls.

## Day 4: Panorama Trail

Today we walk the Panorama trail guided by your HF leader, followed by dinner at the hotel.

## Day 5: North Dome Hike

Today is the spectacular North Dome hike in the Yosemite National Park. This iconic walk is 9.3 miles at an elevation of 2,400m.

We then transfer to our hotel in Dinuba and enjoy a delicious meal at a local restaurant.

## Day 6: Sequoia National Park

We spend today simply enjoying the spectacular Sequoia National Park. The park is notable for its Giant Sequoia trees, including the General Sherman Tree, the world's tallest tree.

There is also a visitor centre which we can visit.

## Day 7: To Death Valley

Today begins with our transfer to Death Valley National Park.

We spend the afternoon sightseeing in Death Valley with some short walks to stretch our legs after our journey.

We then enjoy dinner at our hotel.

## Day 8: Death Valley And To The Grand Canyon.

To beat the heat of Death Valley National Park, we'll get up early to explore and take a short walk. From here, we then drive via the historic Route 66 to the Grand Canyon, our base for three nights.

## Day 9 - 10: Grand Canyon

We've got two full days to explore this vast national park. Our guided walks on these days will take in the West Rim and the South Kaibab Trail. You're free to explore independently if you wish, too. After our first full day in the park, we'll enjoy a great BBQ dinner, hosted by our US guide.

## Day 11: To Las Vegas

We've some free time this morning before we drive to Las Vegas, so a perfect opportunity for taking an optional helicopter tour (payable locally) or simply spend the morning at leisure. Once in Las Vegas, you're free to explore the bright lights at your own pace and we'll enjoy a final meal together.

## Day 12: Departure Day

During the day, you are at leisure to enjoy more of what the city has to offer and to explore its many sights before we transfer to Las Vegas airport in the evening for our return flight.

## ACCOMMODATION

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### Holiday Inn - San Francisco - Golden Gateway - Yosemite & Grand Canyon

A newly renovated hotel located in downtown San Francisco, boasting spectacular views, heated outdoor pool and fitness centre.

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## **Yosemite View Lodge, Yosemite - Yosemite & Grand Canyon**

This riverside lodge gets you close to the wild beauty of the national park, located only a few minutes from the entrance to the park, and offers comfortable guest accommodation.

## **Holiday Inn Express, Dinuba - Yosemite & Grand Canyon**

A comfortable hotel located near the Sequoia National Park and Kings Canyon National Park, allowing you to experience the wonders of nature. The hotel has free Wi-Fi, an outdoor pool, whirlpool and 24 hour fitness centre.

## **Longstreet Hotel & Casino - Yosemite & Grand Canyon**

A cosy hotel located in Death Valley. The hotel boasts 60 newly renovated rooms, and includes complimentary Wi-Fi, a swimming pool and a petting zoo.

## **Grand Canyon Plaza Hotel, Grand Canyon - Yosemite & Grand Canyon**

The Canyon Plaza Resort is situated only a mile south of the entrance to the Grand Canyon itself. The outdoor pool and jacuzzi are perfect for relaxing weary limbs after a long day walking.

## **Golden Nugget - Las Vegas**

The Golden Nugget offers iconic Vegas ambience with a luxurious, modern feel. In the vibrant downtown area, the hotel features a lagoon-style pool and spa.

## **USEFUL HOLIDAY INFORMATION**

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### **Joining Instructions (With Flights)**

If you are arriving ahead of the group, and are meeting them at the first hotel, please leave a message at the hotel reception for the HF Holidays' leader or local leader, detailing your room number, and a mobile telephone number if possible. The leader will contact you once the group arrives. If you are arriving after the group, a message will be left for you at the hotel reception, welcoming you and giving details of the time and place to meet the group. If your flight arrives before the group flight and you would like to join the transfer to the first hotel, please contact our Abroad Administration team on (0)20 8732 1271. They will have a list of the relevant transfer costs.

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## **What To Bring**

### **Essential Equipment**

As you'll be carrying your own luggage at airports and between your transport and hotels we recommend you

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try to keep your luggage to a minimum. These items are a general suggestion of what to pack for an active outdoor and walking holiday; depending on your destination, you may need more of some things and less – or none! – of others. You'll know best what you prefer to wear when out walking or while taking part in other outdoor activities.

- Please ensure you have access to emergency funds should you need them; carrying a credit card is probably the most convenient method.
- Passport (and copies); booking confirmation; insurance cover note; HF Holidays' registration form.
- Walking boots (worn in), with good ankle support and spare bootlaces
- Walking socks
- Walking sandals
- Lightweight fleece, waterproof trousers and jacket
- Shorts and short-sleeved t-shirts
- Long trousers and long-sleeved lightcoloured shirts with collars to protect from the sun. Your clothing should ideally be pre-treated with insect repellent and in-built sun protection (available from specialist clothing stores such as Rohan, Cotswold Outdoor).
- Warm fleece, scarf/buff hat and gloves
- Torch
- Comfortable clothes and shoes for evenings and sightseeing
- Sun protection – sun hat, sunglasses, high factor sunscreen and lip protection
- Water bottle – at least 2-litre capacity
- Lightweight survival bag
- Small/medium rucksack (30 litre) and a liner or cover to keep contents dry
- Insect repellent
- Universal travel plug
- Personal first aid kit including: personal medication, tissues, plasters, blister kit, painkillers, antiseptic wipes, Imodium, rehydration sachets
- Trekking poles (especially if you find these useful for descents); camera; umbrella; binoculars; high energy food bars. Please note that the HF Holidays' leader reserves the right to refuse to take any guest on a walk should they consider that a lack of suitable clothing/footwear may affect safety

## Safety On Your Holiday

Insurance is a condition of booking. Therefore, if you have not already arranged insurance, it is imperative that you do so, and advise us of the insurance company and policy number.

We have negotiated special holiday insurance and full details of this cover can be found in our brochure or at [www.hfholidays.co.uk](http://www.hfholidays.co.uk). There is no extra charge for pre-existing illnesses.

If you would like to purchase insurance from us, please call us on 020 8732 1220 or email [holidayservices@hfholidays.co.uk](mailto:holidayservices@hfholidays.co.uk).

For more information about healthcare abroad and its costs, please visit: [www.dh.gov.uk/travellers](http://www.dh.gov.uk/travellers).

If you are arranging your own travel insurance, please ensure it is adequate for your specific itinerary. Generally, this should include cover for walking at altitudes over 2,000m - the highest point on the harder walks may go up to 2,700m.

Once you have made your booking, you will receive a pre-holiday questionnaire where we ask for details of next of kin and insurance details. You must complete and return this to us - we need to have this from you at least 10 weeks before travel.

Please also inform us of any medical situation which may affect your enjoyment of the holiday. This is important because our leaders have to consider both group and individual safety at all times.

Whilst out with the group, we respectfully request that you:

- Please listen to any safety instructions from the leader
- Keep group members in view, especially if weather or visibility is poor
- Please stay where you are if you become separated from the group. The leader will retrace their steps to find you.

Each leader carries a first aid kit but is not allowed to supply any medication including aspirin, paracetamol, antihistamines and antiseptic cream. You may wish to bring these items with you in your own kit (see Suggested Kit List).

In the unlikely event that your leader is incapacitated, please use any emergency kit in their rucksack and call emergency services on 911. Please then call our emergency number (see page 8) and let us know there is a problem.

## Dietary Requirements

Please contact us as far in advance as possible if you have any specific dietary requirements and we will do our best to meet your needs.

If you require a specific meal on the flight, please let us know as soon as possible, and no later than 96 hours before travel.

## Vaccinations & Health

Before booking, you should check with your doctor to see if any health precautions are needed.

The following websites provide a wealth of information on travelling and health: [www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk](http://www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk)  
[www.traveldoctor.co.uk](http://www.traveldoctor.co.uk)  
Recommended vaccines: Tetanus.

Visitors must pay for all medical services. Adequate health insurance is therefore essential.

## Passports & Visas

### Passports

Passports must be valid for the duration of the trip

### Visas

**You'll need prior authorisation to enter the United States using a British passport, either through a visa, a Permanent Resident Card, or the Visa Waiver Programme. It's your responsibility to know and understand the entry rules before you travel.**

#### Visa Waiver Programme (VWP)

The VWP allows most British Citizen passport holders to visit the US for up to 90 days. The types of journey allowed under the VWP include tourism, certain types of business visit and transit to another country. Other nationals should check with their nearest United States embassy or consulate for details of entry requirements.

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You'll generally qualify to enter the USA using the VWP if your British passport:

- describes your nationality as a 'British Citizen

**(From 1 April 2016 all passengers entering the US under the VWP will need to have an ePassport with an integrated chip)**

If your current British passport is not an ePassport you can contact Her Majesty's Passport office for a replacement to allow you to use the VWP. Otherwise, you'll need to apply for a visa to enter the United States on your current passport.

and you:

- aren't a dual national of Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen.
- haven't travelled to Libya, Iran, Iraq, Somalia, Sudan, Syria or Yemen since March 2011
- have received authorisation from the Electronic System for Travel Authorisation at least 72 hours before you travel (see below)
- can show that you have enough funds available on arrival to support yourself during your stay, even if you're staying with family and friends

Certain exemptions apply on a case-by-case basis to those who have travelled to Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Libya, Somalia or Yemen since March 2011. For more information about these exemptions, see the [website of the US Embassy in London](#) or contact the nearest US Embassy or Consulate.

You will instead need to apply for a visa from the nearest US Embassy or Consulate.

If you're arriving by air or sea you should provide details online as soon as possible and at least 72 hours before travel. This is known as an Electronic System for Travel Authorisation or ESTA. Getting an ESTA is a separate process to providing your airline with advance passenger information (details of your passport, country of residence, address of your first night's accommodation in the US etc). For more information, and to apply online, visit the official [ESTA website](#). Please note that this is the only official ESTA website. There are third-party companies that operate websites which look like the ESTA application site, but which charge a processing fee on top of the official fees.

## Useful Information

The local currency in the United States of America is the US Dollar. Credit cards widely accepted.

## Luggage

If your bag or its contents are damaged or lost while in the airline's care, this should be reported to the baggage service agents at the airport on arrival. They will assess the damage; in some cases, the airline may decide to settle your claim immediately.

You will be given a reference to quote to your insurance company if an immediate settlement is not possible - in many cases, baggage claims can only be accepted in writing. A baggage claim form must be obtained from the airport.

## Electricity

Electricity is 120V; plugs are as shown below so you'll need an adaptor to use non-US electrical items: (add images of plugs)

## ATM Availability

ATMs are widely available across the country. Traveller's cheques are not advised.

## Tipping

Tips have been included in your holiday price for key services such as local guides, driver(s) and restaurants. Any additional tips you may wish to give are at your own discretion

## HOW TO BOOK

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When you're ready to book, you can choose to **book online** or book **over the phone**. Our website offers secure online booking for our holidays, is available 24/7, and offers more in-depth information about all our holidays. If you prefer to call us, our experienced and knowledgeable team are available to answer any specific questions you have and can offer guidance as to which holiday is best suited to your needs.

Our office is open: Monday to Friday: 9am – 7pm Saturday & Sunday: 9am – 1pm Bank Holiday Monday: 9am – 1pm

## PAYING YOUR DEPOSIT

To secure the holiday of your choice, you will need to pay a deposit: UK & European Holidays: £150 per person and Worldwide Holidays: £250 per person. You can pay your deposit by debit or credit card with no additional card fees charged or make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account, please see details under BACS payments. You can also pay your deposit by cheque within seven days of booking. Cheques should be made payable to 'HF Holidays Ltd' with your booking reference / Order ID on the back.

## NON-MEMBER FEE

Non-members can join our holidays by paying a Non-Member's fee of £10 per person per holiday. Alternatively, full membership is available from £100 – visit [hfholidays.co.uk/membership](http://hfholidays.co.uk/membership) for details.

## BACS PAYMENTS

Please quote your booking reference / Order ID when you make your payment online: Bank Name: Svenska Handelsbanken AB (publ) Account Name: HF Holidays Ltd Account Number: 35923304 Sort Code: 40-51-62 IBAN: GB92HAND40516235923304 Swift / Bic Code: HANDGB22

Once we have received your booking and deposit, we will send a confirmation invoice to the lead name. Please check this carefully. For bookings 'with flights' it is essential that the names on your booking confirmation invoice match those on your passport for bookings overseas. Please advise us immediately of any errors. Any name changes after the balance of your holiday has been paid will be subject to a fee levied by the airline.

## MANAGE MY BOOKINGS

Payments can also be made through the Manage My Booking function on our website. Click on the link at the top of our homepage. This is available to all customers who provide an email address at the time of booking.

## YOUR FINAL BALANCE

The balance is due 10 weeks before departure. As with paying your deposit, you can pay your final balance by debit or credit card, make an online BACS payment directly into HF's bank account or pay by cheque.

## TRAVEL INSURANCE

Travel insurance is an important part of any booking and essential for one of our holidays. HF Holidays works with specialist. Insurance Brokers Campbell Irvine Direct. For more information or to obtain a quote call them on 01702 427 236 or visit [hfholidays.co.uk/insurance](http://hfholidays.co.uk/insurance)

## PEACE OF MIND

## ATOL:

The air holidays and flights in this brochure are ATOL-protected, since we hold an Air Travel Organiser's Licence granted by the Civil Aviation Authority. Our ATOL number is ATOL 710. In the unlikely event of our insolvency, the CAA will ensure that you are not stranded abroad and will arrange to refund any money you have paid us for advance bookings. For further information visit the ATOL website [atol.org.uk](http://atol.org.uk)

#### MEMBER OF ABTOT:

HF Holidays is a member of ABTOT (The Association of Bonded Travel Organisers Trust Limited) which provides financial protection under the Package Travel, Package Holidays and Package Tours Regulations 1992 for HF Holidays Ltd and in the event of their insolvency, protection is provided for the following: 1. non-flight packages commencing in and returning to the UK; 2. non-flight packages commencing and returning to a country other than the UK; 3. flight inclusive packages that commence outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland, which are sold to customers outside of the UK and Republic of Ireland. 1, 2 and 3 provides for a refund in the event you have not yet travelled. 1 and 3 provides for repatriation. Please note that bookings made outside the UK and Republic of Ireland are only protected by ABTOT when purchased directly with HF Holidays Ltd.

#### TRIP NOTE VALIDITY

These Trip Notes are valid based on the date printed at the bottom of the page. They will occasionally be updated post booking and pre-departure. We will send you the latest trip notes prior to departure through a link in your pre departure documents or we can send you a copy in the post if preferred.

In booking this trip you should be confident in your ability to participate in all activities described in these Trip Notes. If you have any doubt about your suitability you should call HF Holidays and ask to speak to one of the team about this itinerary.

The information in these Trip Notes is given in good faith. Where differences exist between the Trip Notes and our current brochure, the Trip Notes supersede the brochure. All holidays can be subject to unexpected changes; so please be prepared to be flexible where necessary. At times, it may not be possible to follow the itinerary as planned due to weather conditions, political, physical or other factors. In these circumstances we will make the best possible alternative arrangements to maintain the integrity of the original itinerary.

#### PRICE GUARANTEE

We promise that our earliest published prices will always be the best and if we reduce our holiday price after your booking has been confirmed, we will pass this reduction on to you. Our price promise applies if any subsequent offer price is for an identical holiday, duration, location and date and does not cover any optional extras, flights or additional services.

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